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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/916,787	07/27/2001	Paul Steven Halverson	ROC920010042US1	8814

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EXAMINER
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SCHLAIFER, JONATHAN D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2178

DATE MAILED: 10/06/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/916,787

Applicant(s)

HALVERSON, PAUL STEVEN

Examiner

Jonathan D. Schlaifer

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 July 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-31 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-31 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 27 July 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to communications: Application 09/916,787 filed on 7/27/2001.
2. Claims 1-31 are pending in the case. Claims 1, 15, and 21 are independent claims.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. **Claims 1-7, 10, 15-18, 21-27 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Hachamovitch et al. (USPN 6,377,965 B1—filing date 11/7/1997), hereinafter Hachamovitch.**
4. **Regarding independent claim 1**, Hachamovitch discloses a method of provided context sensitive code ahead input to a user of a computer system (in the Abstract, lines 1-5, the invention is a word completion system), the method comprising: receiving an entry for a document; (Abstract, lines 5-15, the program receives a partial data entry) identifying a context in the document based on a predefined definition of the received entry (Abstract, lines 15-25, different lists are selected as appropriate to the application), wherein the predefined definition associates the entry with a code ahead input (Abstract, lines 20-30, the suggestion lists associates the entry with a code ahead input); and displaying, on a display device of the computer system, the code ahead input based upon the identified context (Fig. 4A-4C, the suggestions are displayed).

5. **Regarding dependent claim 2**, the combination of the entry and the code ahead input in Hachamovitch is inherently not a previously entered entry retrieved from memory because the user has a choice of which entry to make.
6. **Regarding dependent claim 3**, in col. 4, lines 35-45, Hachamovitch discloses that identifying the context comprises identifying that the entry has been previously entered and then identifying the code ahead input because on the predefined definition of the entry. (The entries form auto-completion pairs.)
7. **Regarding dependent claim 4**, in col. 4, lines 50-67, Hachamovitch discloses that the word completion is a utility (or a procedure call), and that the particular word is a parameter to the word completion.
8. **Regarding dependent claim 5**, in col. 4, lines 35-55, Hachamovitch discloses that the identifying comprises: determining whether a procedure definition exists for the procedure call (this is inherent to calling any procedure in a program); and identifying a type of the parameter in the procedure definition if the procedure definition exists for the procedure call, where type of code ahead input provided is the same as the type of parameter identified (the parameter types are listed in lines 40-45).
9. **Regarding dependent claim 6**, in col. 4, lines 35-40, Hachamovitch discloses that the context is the initialization of a variable because data situations are initialized on an ongoing basis.
10. **Regarding dependent claim 7**, in col. 4, lines 45-55, Hachamovitch discloses that the identifying comprises: determining whether a variable definition exists for the variable (this is inherent to working with any variable in a program); and identifying a type of the

variable in the variable definition if the variable definition exists for the variable, where the type of code input provided is the same as the type of variable identified (however, in Hachamovitch uses a “wizard” to accomplish this task of typing the completion pairs to contextual information).

11. **Regarding independent claim 15**, it is an apparatus for performing the method of claim 1 and is rejected under similar rationale.
12. **Regarding dependent claim 16**, it is an apparatus for performing the method of claim 2 and is rejected under similar rationale.
13. **Regarding dependent claim 17**, it is an apparatus for performing the method of claim 4 and is rejected under similar rationale.
14. **Regarding dependent claim 18**, it is an apparatus for performing the method of claim 6 and is rejected under similar rationale.
15. **Regarding dependent claim 10**, in Fig. 5, Hachamovitch discloses through the structure of the flowchart (which loops back on itself) that the identifying is performed iteratively for each character input at least until the code ahead input.
16. **Regarding independent claim 21**, it is a computer-readable medium with instructions for performing the method of claim 1 and is rejected under similar rationale.
17. **Regarding dependent claim 22**, it is a computer-readable medium with instructions for performing the method of claim 2 and is rejected under similar rationale.
18. **Regarding dependent claim 23**, it is a computer-readable medium with instructions for performing the method of claim 3 and is rejected under similar rationale.

19. **Regarding dependent claim 24**, it is a computer-readable medium with instructions for performing the method of claim 4 and is rejected under similar rationale.
20. **Regarding dependent claim 25**, it is a computer-readable medium with instructions for performing the method of claim 5 and is rejected under similar rationale.
21. **Regarding dependent claim 26**, it is a computer-readable medium with instructions for performing the method of claim 6 and is rejected under similar rationale.
22. **Regarding dependent claim 27**, it is a computer-readable medium with instructions for performing the method of claim 7 and is rejected under similar rationale.
23. **Regarding dependent claim 30**, it is a computer-readable medium with instructions for performing the method of claim 10 and is rejected under similar rationale.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

24. **Claims 8, 19, and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hachamovitch, further in view of Lin (USPN 6,381,597 B1—filing date 10/7/1999).**
25. **Regarding dependent claim 8**, Hachmovitch fails to disclose that the entry is an end tag of a hyper text markup language (HTML) text entry and wherein identifying the context comprises identifying an associated start tag preceding the text entry. However, Lin discloses associating start and end tags of HTML in col. 7, line 25—col. 8, line 15 in order to successfully process HTML. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill

in the art at the time of the invention to associate start and end tags of HTML in the manner of Lin in the context of Hachamovitch in order to successfully process HTML.

**26. Regarding dependent claim 19**, it is an apparatus for performing the method of claim 8 and is rejected under similar rationale.

**27. Regarding dependent claim 28**, it is a computer-readable medium with instructions for performing the method of claim 8 and is rejected under similar rationale.

**28. Claims 9, 14, 20, and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hachamovitch, further in view of Hungerford (USPN 4,872,112—filing date 7/25/1988).**

**29. Regarding dependent claim 9**, Hachamovitch fails to disclose that the entry is a listing of an ingredient in a recipe and wherein identifying the context comprises identifying an association to a unit of measurement. However, Hungerford, in lines 1-7 of the Abstract, discloses the use of food ingredient ratios. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use food ingredient ratios in the manner of Hungerford in the context of Hachamovitch in order to facilitate the processing of recipes for the purpose of cooking.

**30. Regarding dependent claim 14**, Hachamovitch fails to disclose that the list of relevant terms comprises ingredients for a recipe. However, Hungerford, in lines 1-7 of the Abstract, discloses the use of food ingredient ratios, and it was notoriously well known in the art at the time of the invention that ingredients are used in lists to make recipes. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use food ingredient lists as an obvious extension of Hungerford in the

context of Hachamovitch in order to facilitate the processing of recipes for the purpose of cooking.

**31. Regarding dependent claim 20**, it is an apparatus for performing the method of claim 9 and is rejected under similar rationale.

**32. Regarding dependent claim 29**, it is a computer-readable medium with instructions for performing the method of claim 1 and is rejected under similar rationale.

**33. Claims 11-13 and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hachamovitch, further in view of Comer et al. (USPN 5,845,300—filing date 6/5/1996), hereinafter Comer.**

**34. Regarding dependent claim 11**, Hachamovitch fails to disclose that the provided code ahead input is in a list of possible inputs based on the identified context. However, Comer discloses in the Abstract, lines 7-15, that there is a dynamic list of possible completions. The advantage, also cited in Comer's Abstract, lines 7-15, is that such listing changes to reflect the status of the current data.

**35. Regarding dependent claim 12**, Hachamovitch fails to disclose providing, if the received entry is a request for help, a list of relevant terms to the user. However, Comer, in col. 1, lines 45-60, discloses retrieving help terms in Microsoft Word. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to retrieve help terms as in Comer in the context of Hachmovitch because this would have provided useful assistance to the user.

**36. Regarding dependent claim 13**, Hachamovitch fails to disclose that the list of relevant terms comprises variables and procedures in the document. However, in col. 4, lines 55-



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67, Comer reveals that the completion may be used in conjunction with a spreadsheet and it was notoriously well known in the art at the time of the invention that variables and procedures are key elements of a spreadsheet. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have the terms be variables and procedures because these are components of a spreadsheet and Comer reveals that spreadsheets can benefit from completion technology because it can increase the efficiency and reliability of data entry (see col. 4, lines 63-64).

**37. Regarding dependent claim 31**, it is a computer-readable medium with instructions for performing the method of claim 11 and is rejected under similar rationale.

### ***Conclusion***

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

USPN 5,926,811 (filing date 3/15/1996)–Miller et al.

USPN 5,900,004 (filing date 9/15/1997)–Gipson


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jonathan D. Schlaifer whose telephone number is (571) 272-4129. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-5:00, M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephen Hong can be reached on (571) 272-4124. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

JS



**STEPHEN S. HONG**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**